

VER-142XX

TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES
DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US)
CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 36 U.S.C. 371

U.S. APPLICATION NO. (If known, see 37 CFR 1.5)

09/744637

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO.

PCT/NL99/00485 ✓

INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE

28 July 1999 ✓

PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED

29 July 1998 ✓

TITLE OF INVENTION TRANSFER PAPER FOR INK-JET PRINTING

JCS Rec'd PCT/PTO 26 JAN 2001

APPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US Cornelis Hendricus Cornelissen, Koert Johannes Sportel, Anthonie Cornelis de Visser

Applicant herewith submits to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information:

1. ☒ This is a **FIRST** submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.
2. ☐ This is a **SECOND** or **SUBSEQUENT** submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.
3. ☒ This express request to begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371(f)) at any time rather than delay examination until the expiration of the applicable time limit set in 35 U.S.C. 371(b) and PCT Articles 22 and 39(1).
4. ☐ A proper Demand for International Preliminary Examination was made by the 19th month from the earliest claimed priority date.
5. ☒ A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2))
 - a. ☒ is transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau).
 - b. ☒ has been transmitted by the International Bureau.
 - c. ☐ is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US).
6. ☒ A translation of the International Application into English (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)).
7. ☒ Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3))
 - a. ☐ are transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau).
 - b. ☐ have been transmitted by the International Bureau.
 - c. ☐ have not been made; however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired.
 - d. ☒ have not been made and will not be made.
8. ☐ A translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)).
9. ☐ An oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(4)).
10. ☐ A translation of the annexes to the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(5)).

Items 11. to 16. below concern document(s) or information included:

11. ☒ An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.
12. ☐ An assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 CFR 3.28 and 3.31 is included.
13. ☒ A **FIRST** preliminary amendment.
☐ A **SECOND** or **SUBSEQUENT** preliminary amendment.
14. ☐ A substitute specification.
15. ☐ A change of power of attorney and/or address letter.
16. ☐ Other items or information:

Express Mail Number

EL418429065US

U.S. APPLICATION NO. 09/744637

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO.

ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER

PCT/NL99/00485

VER-142XX

17. ☒ The following fees are submitted:**BASIC NATIONAL FEE (37 CFR 1.492 (a) (1) - (5)):**

Neither international preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482)
nor international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO
and International Search Report not prepared by the EPO or JPO

\$1,000.00

International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to
USPTO but International Search Report prepared by the EPO or JPO

\$860.00

International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but
international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO

\$710.00

International preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482)
but all claims did not satisfy provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4)

\$690.00

International preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482)
and all claims satisfied provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4)

\$100.00

ENTER APPROPRIATE BASIC FEE AMOUNT =

\$ 860.00

Surcharge of **\$130.00** for furnishing the oath or declaration later than ☐ 20 ☐ 30
months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(e)).

\$

CLAIMS	NUMBER FILED	NUMBER EXTRA	RATE
Total claims	21- 20 =	1	X \$18.00
Independent claims	2 - 3 =	0	X \$80.00
MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM(S) (if applicable)			+\$270.00

\$ 18.00

\$ 0

\$ 0

TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS =

\$ 878.00

☐ Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27. The fees indicated above
are reduced by 1/2.

\$

SUBTOTAL =

\$ 878.00

Processing fee of **\$130.00** for furnishing the English translation later than ☐ 20 ☐ 30
months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(f)).

\$

TOTAL NATIONAL FEE =

\$ 878.00

Fee for recording the enclosed assignment (37 CFR 1.21(h)). The assignment must be
accompanied by an appropriate cover sheet (37 CFR 3.28, 3.31). **\$40.00** per property

\$

TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED =

\$ 878.00

**Amount to be
refunded:**

\$

charged:

\$

a. ☒ A check in the amount of \$ 878.00 to cover the above fees is enclosed. A check in the amount of \$ _____
is enclosed for the assignment recordation fee.

b. ☐ Please charge my Deposit Account No. _____ in the amount of \$ _____ to cover the above fees.
A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

c. ☒ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any
overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-0804. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

**NOTE: Where an appropriate time limit under 37 CFR 1.494 or 1.495 has not been met, a petition to revive (37 CFR 1.137(a) or (b))
must be filed and granted to restore the application to pending status.**

Customer Number 207

SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:

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REGISTRATION NUMBER

09/744637

PATENT

JC02 Rec'd PCT/PTO 26 JAN 2001

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application : Cornelis Hendricus Cornelissen, et al.
Application No. :
Filed : Herewith
For : TRANSFER PAPER FOR INK-JET PRINTING
Examiner :
Attorney's Docket : VER-142XX

Group Art Unit:

* * * * *
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited
with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an
envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents,
Washington, D.C. 20231 on _____.

By: _____

Registration No.
Attorney for Applicant(s)

* * * * *

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

BOX PCT
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Kindly enter the following Preliminary Amendment in the
above-identified application:

In the Claims:

Please amend the Claims to read as follows (a marked-up
copy appears at the end for the Examiner's convenience):

Express Mail Number

2641842906505

1. A transfer paper suitable for inkjet printing, provided, at least on the side to be printed, with a release or barrier layer, wherein the layer has a porosity of at most 100 ml/min.
2. A transfer paper according to claim 1, wherein the release or barrier layer is applied to the wire side.
3. A transfer paper according to claim 1, wherein the porosity is at most 75 ml/min.
4. A transfer paper according to claim 1, wherein the porosity is from 0 to 25 ml/min.
5. A transfer paper according to claim 1, wherein the release or barrier layer is based on polyvinyl alcohol, carboxymethylcellulose, alginate, gelatin or mixtures thereof.
6. A transfer paper according to claim 5, wherein the release or barrier layer is based on carboxymethylcellulose.
7. A transfer paper according to claim 1, wherein the release or barrier layer can contain up to 15% of a filler.
8. A transfer paper according to claim 7, wherein the filler is kaolin or talcum.
9. A transfer paper according to claim 1, wherein a non-transferable dye is added to the release or barrier layer or to the paper.

10. A transfer paper according to claim 1, wherein during the printing of the paper by means of an inkjet printer with an aqueous ink that contains a dispersion of sublimable dyes, substantially no flowing of the ink occurs.
11. A transfer paper according to claim 1, wherein the paper is of photo quality.
12. A transfer paper according to claim 11, wherein the paper has a single or multiple coated base.
13. A method for manufacturing transfer paper for inkjet printing according to claim 1, wherein to the side to be printed, a release or barrier layer is applied by means of a coating process in which an excess of the barrier material is applied first and subsequently wiped with a wiping knife (blade knife) or roller knife, with the layer obtaining a porosity of at most 100 ml/min.
14. A method according to claim 13, wherein the layer is based on polyvinyl alcohol, carboxymethylcellulose, alginate and gelatin or mixtures thereof, with optional fillers.
15. A method according to claim 13, wherein the layer is based on carboxymethylcellulose.
16. A method for printing transfer paper according to claim 1, wherein during the printing of the paper by means of an inkjet printer with an aqueous dispersion of a sublimable ink, substantially no flowing and/or non-uniform absorption of the ink occurs.

17. Use of transfer paper according to claim 1 for printing with an inkjet printer.

18. A method for printing a surface, wherein with an inkjet printer a pattern is provided on a support material other than paper, having a release or barrier layer of a porosity of at most 100 ml/min and wherein the pattern is subsequently provided on the surface by means of transferring.

Please add the following new claims 19 - 21:

19. A transfer paper according to claim 2, wherein:

the porosity is from 0 to 25 ml/min;

the release or barrier layer is based on polyvinyl alcohol, carboxymethylcellulose, alginate, gelatin or mixtures thereof;

the release or barrier layer contains up to 15% of filler selected from the group of kaolin or talcum;

a non-transferable dye is added to the release or barrier layer or to the paper; and

the paper has a single or multiple coated base and is of photo quality.

20. A method for manufacturing transfer paper for inkjet printing according to claim 19, wherein:

to the side to be printed, a release or barrier layer is applied by means of a coating process in which an excess of the barrier material is applied first and subsequently wiped with a wiping knife (blade knife) or roller knife, with the layer obtaining a porosity of at most 100 ml/min; and

the layer is based on polyvinyl alcohol, carboxymethylcellulose, alginate and gelatin or mixtures thereof, with or without fillers.

21. A method for printing transfer paper according to claim 19, wherein during the printing of the paper by means of an inkjet printer with an aqueous dispersion of a sublimable ink, substantially no flowing and/or non-uniform absorption of the ink occurs.

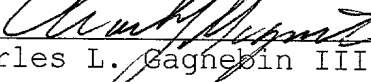
REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment puts the claims into proper form for examination. Kindly calculate the filing fee based on the amended claims.

The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned attorney to discuss any matter which would expedite allowance of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

Cornelis Hendrikus Cornelissen. et al.

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JC02 Rec'd PCT/PTO 26 JAN 2001

Red-lined claims for the Examiner's convenience

1. A transfer paper suitable for inkjet printing, provided, at least on the side to be printed, with a release or barrier layer, wherein the layer has a porosity of at most 100 ml/min.
2. A transfer paper according to claim 1, wherein the release or barrier layer is applied to the wire side.
3. A transfer paper according to claim 1-~~or~~ 2, wherein the porosity is at most 75 ml/min.
4. A transfer paper according to ~~any one of claims 1-3~~ claim 1, wherein the porosity is from 0 to 25 ml/min.
5. A transfer paper according to ~~any one of claims 1-4~~ claim 1, wherein the release or barrier layer is based on polyvinyl alcohol, carboxymethylcellulose, alginate, gelatin or mixtures thereof.
6. A transfer paper according to claim 5, wherein the release or barrier layer is based on carboxymethylcellulose.
7. A transfer paper according to ~~any one of claims 1-6~~ claim 1, wherein the release or barrier layer can contain up to 15% of a filler.
8. A transfer paper according to claim 7, wherein the filler is kaolin or talcum.

9. A transfer paper according to ~~any one of claims 1-8~~ claim 1, wherein a non-transferable dye is added to the release or barrier layer or to the paper.

10. A transfer paper according to ~~any one of claims 1-9~~ claim 1, wherein during the printing of the paper by means of an inkjet printer with an aqueous ink that contains a dispersion of sublimable dyes, substantially no flowing of the ink occurs.

11. A transfer paper according to ~~any one of claims 1-10~~ claim 1, wherein the paper is of photo quality.

12. A transfer paper according to claim 11, wherein the paper has a single or multiple coated base.

13. A method for manufacturing transfer paper for inkjet printing according to ~~any one of claims 1-12~~ claim 1, wherein to the side to be printed, a release or barrier layer is applied by means of a coating process in which an excess of the barrier material is applied first and subsequently wiped with a wiping knife (blade knife) or roller knife, with the layer obtaining a porosity of at most 100 ml/min.

14. A method according to claim 13, wherein the layer is based on polyvinyl alcohol, carboxymethylcellulose, alginate and gelatin or mixtures thereof, with optional fillers.

15. A method according to claim 13 ~~or 14~~, wherein the layer is based on carboxymethylcellulose.

16. A method for printing transfer paper according to ~~any one of claims 1-12~~ claim 1, wherein during the printing of the paper by means of an inkjet printer with an aqueous dispersion of a sublimable ink, substantially no flowing and/or non-uniform absorption of the ink occurs.

17. Use of transfer paper according to ~~any one of claims 1-12~~ claim 1 for printing with an inkjet printer.

18. A method for printing a surface, wherein with an inkjet printer a pattern is provided on a support material other than paper, having a release or barrier layer of a porosity of at most 100 ml/min and wherein the pattern is subsequently provided on the surface by means of transferring.

TRANSFER PAPER FOR INK-JET PRINTING

The invention relates to transfer paper.

Transfer paper is used for printing textile and material provided with a polyester coating, in particular textile of polyester, and mixtures of polyester with other
5 fibers. To this end, by means of common printing techniques (flexographic, offset, intaglio, or rotary screen printing), a pattern, design or printing image is applied to the paper. Depending on the printing technique, the ink is thin-fluid or in the form of a pasty mass. The ink or paste contains
10 sublimable dye components. By means of heat, the sublimable components of the ink are subsequently transferred, in the transfer process, onto the surface that is eventually to be printed. In this process, the temperatures common for transferring the dyes are within the range of from about
15 170°C to about 210°C. During the transfer of the dyes in the ink, by means of heat and pressure, a portion of the dyes often stays behind on the paper. The extent to which the sublimable dye is transferred from the paper onto the textile during the transfer process is referred to as transfer
20 efficiency.

To reduce the amount of non-transferred dye in the transfer process, measures have in the past been proposed to improve the transfer ratio (transfer efficiency). One of these measures concerned the application of a layer (release
25 or barrier layer) to the smooth side (i.e. the side to be printed) of the paper, causing the dye to be transferred onto the substrate more easily.

In the case of a barrier layer, this layer prevents the dyes of the ink from penetrating too deep into the paper.
30 The layer may also be applied to the paper to ensure that the material that is applied to the layer can easily be given off again or removed otherwise. In this case, such layer is referred to as release layer. In many cases, the release and barrier function can be achieved by the same material.

Through the application of a release or barrier layer to the paper, less dye remains behind on the paper after the transfer printing process, which is economically advantageous. Suitable materials for this release or barrier layer are, in particular in the case of water-based inks, hydrophilic polymers such as carboxymethylcellulose. Through the application of the layer, the extent in which the dye is transferred from the paper onto the surface to be eventually printed is increased. The effect that the application of such layer has on the transfer efficiency of the dyes is, for instance, described in an article by Dr. U. Einsele and Prof. Dr. Herlinger, *Melliand Textilberichte*, 7, 1987, pp. 487-494.

As a matter of fact, applying such barrier layer to the reverse side of the paper (hence not the side to be printed) is known for preventing the "ghosting effect". This effect occurs, inter alia, during the storage of the printed transfer paper. This storage is usually effected in rolls. Such paper with an anti-ghosting barrier generally has a porosity of about 200 ml/min.

The porosity is defined as the air permeability as determined according to the ISO standards. ISO standards applicable hereto are, inter alia, ISO standard 8791-2 for determining the roughness of the paper and ISO standard 5636-3 for the air permeability or porosity of the paper. This can be done with an L&W Bendtsen Tester of AB Lorentzen & Wettre, Kista, Sweden.

A drawback of the printing of paper, such as in this case transfer paper, by means of contact printing processes, and in particular a rotary screen printing process, is that a printing form has to be made, such as a screen or a template. The making of a printing form entails costs. These costs are as high for small batches (small lengths) or samplings as for great batches (great lengths). Consequently, for smaller lengths, samples and one-off designs, relatively high costs

have to be made. For such utilizations, this generally renders the use of contact printing processes expensive.

Another possibility for the printing of transfer paper is the contactless printing process. In this process, a
5 digital image is transferred onto the support material by means of an inkjet printer or another, for instance electrostatic technique. This technique has the advantage over the contact printing process that no templates, screens or other printing forms have to be used. When computer
10 control (for instance DTP techniques) is used, it is possible to print an image directly onto the transfer paper.

Numerous publications are known relating to paper that is suitable for printing with an inkjet printer. Some of those will now be dealt with. For instance, European patent
15 application EP-A 0 730 976 discloses a paper for an inkjet printer which is suitable for being printed with an ink based on a water-soluble dye which substantially contains carboxyl groups as hydrophilic functional groups, which paper does not contain calcium carbonate, while on at least the side of the
20 paper that is to be printed, a water-absorbing pigment and an aqueous binder are provided as main components.

DE 19628342 describes a paper for inkjet printing provided with a synthetic layer which, after printing, can melt under the influence of heat to form a layer resistant to
25 water and light.

DE 19604693 describes a paper for inkjet printing which comprises a layer containing pigment and binding agent, the pigment substantially consisting of bentonite and the binding agent consisting of a hydrophilic binder or a mixture
30 thereof with a hydrophobic binder.

DE 19618607 describes a paper for an inkjet printer comprising a support material and a color-receiving layer, while on the color-receiving layer a layer is present built up from finely-porous cationic charge centers including
35 inorganic pigments and/or fillers. The color-receiving layer may contain, inter alia, carboxymethylcellulose.

DE 19628341 describes a paper suitable for printing with an aqueous ink, in which a layer has been applied to a temporary support material, which layer consists of thermoplastic synthetic particles and a binder, while as
5 binder, a carboxymethylcellulose can be used, inter alia.

EP 770729 describes a paper suitable for inkjet printing with water-based inks, in which dimensional instability is prevented by subjecting the paper, before the coating process, to a treatment which obviates the shrinkage
10 caused by the coating process.

The inks for sublimation transfer printing that are used both in contact printing processes and in contactless printing processes can be water-based. Water-based inks are inks produced with water as main liquid component, in which
15 the dye particles are dispersed in the liquid. To such inks, thickeners may be added to enable processing the ink as a pasty mass in, for instance, a rotary screen printing process. Inks as can be employed in the above-described processes typically contain dye particles having a particle
20 size in the region around 0.1 μm .

A drawback of the use of water-based inks in a contactless printing process, in particular inkjet printing, is that the aqueous composition of the ink causes the different color areas to run into one another, so that a
25 reduced color contrast is obtained. Consequently, as far as acutance of the image and contrast of the color areas are concerned, the result of the printing process is often of reduced quality. Also, the uniformity of the color areas may be adversely affected. This drawback of water-based ink
30 occurs during the printing of known types of transfer paper by means of an inkjet printer. Paper types that are specifically suitable for inkjet printing are not suitable for the use as described hereinabove, either, inter alia because of an unduly low transfer efficiency.

35 Thickening the ink into a pasty mass, as in the contact printing process, does not apply to inkjet printing,

because the ink can then no longer be jetted. With this, the problem concerning the flowing of the ink in the case of inkjet printing cannot be solved.

Hence, a dilemma is involved.

5 On the one hand, in a contact printing process, the flowing of the ink and the non-uniformity of the printed image can be prevented with a pasty ink, but this entails the higher costs of producing a printing form.

 On the other, the costs of making a printing form can
10 be avoided by a contactless printing process such as inkjet printing, but in that case, a thin-fluid ink is used and the ink can flow.

 Surprisingly, it has now been found that the dilemma
15 is solved and, consequently, the above drawbacks do not present themselves if a transfer paper is used having applied thereto a release or barrier layer of such thickness and density, and which is moreover of such composition, that the paper with the layer applied thereto has a low air permeability and/or porosity. As the porosity of the base
20 paper (paper without the layer applied thereto) is generally many times greater (approx. 2000 to approx. 3000 ml/min) than that of the layer applied, the air permeability is determined by the layer applied thereto.

 Hence, the invention relates to a transfer paper
25 suitable for inkjet printing, which at least on the side to be printed is provided with a release or barrier layer, the layer having a porosity of at most 100 ml/min. The porosity is measured according to ISO standard 5636-3.

 The use of the paper according to the invention
30 involves no or very little flowing of the separate colors, and at the same time, during transfer of the dye onto a surface, a high transfer efficiency is obtained.

 The invention also comprises a method for
manufacturing transfer paper for inkjet printing wherein a
35 release or barrier layer is applied to the side to be printed by means of a coating process in which an excess of the

barrier material is applied first and subsequently wiped with a wiping knife (blade knife) or roller knife, the layer obtaining a porosity of at most 100 ml/min.

In the art, such release or barrier layer is also
5 applied with a transfer roller without the above-mentioned blade or roller knife technique. Without excluding this possibility of applying a layer in the present patent application, it is the inventors' experience that, generally, this does not yield a paper which has the desired properties
10 to a sufficient extent. The structure of the layer on a paper where the layer has been applied with a transfer roller is usually considered to be too open. That is to say, the porosity of the layer and, accordingly, the paper is too high and the transfer efficiency is lower. However, by applying
15 additional layers by techniques that provide a more closed layer, the too open structure of a layer applied with a transfer roller can be overcome.

The invention further relates to a method for printing transfer paper in which, when the paper is being
20 printed with an inkjet printer with an aqueous dispersion of a sublimable ink, (substantially) no absorption of the dyes in the ink occurs or no non-uniform absorption of the dyes in the ink occurs.

The invention also relates to the use of transfer
25 paper for printing with an inkjet printer, as well as to a method of printing a surface wherein, with an inkjet printer, a pattern is applied to a support material other than paper, for instance a plastic film suitable therefor, provided with a release or barrier layer, and wherein, by transfer
30 printing, the pattern is subsequently transferred onto the surface (substrate) to be printed.

French patent specification 76022691 describes the composition of a water-based ink containing sublimable dyes, for printing transfer paper with an inkjet printer.

35 In accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention, a suitable layer to be applied to the

paper is a hydrophilic polymer such as, for instance, polyvinyl alcohol, carboxymethylcellulose, alginate and gelatin or mixtures thereof, preferably carboxymethylcellulose. In a preferred embodiment of the present invention, carboxymethylcellulose having a degree of substitution (DS) of from about 0.2 to 0.3 is used.

In a preferred embodiment, the paper is provided with such a layer of carboxymethylcellulose that the layer has a porosity of at most 100 ml/min, more preferably at most 75 ml/min, and most preferably from 0 to 25 ml/min.

The release or barrier layer may also comprise fillers such as, for instance, kaolin, talcum and the like. This filler can be used in an amount of up to 15 wt.% as long as the properties of the layer are not adversely affected thereby. Also, to the release or barrier layer, or to the filler or the support paper, a non-transferable dye may be added, for instance as identification of the paper.

The layer can be applied in a manner known in the art, for instance with a coating provided with a wiping knife or roller knife. To obtain a sufficiently thick and dense layer, a number of layers may be applied one over the other. The thickness of the layer must be such that the layer is sufficiently dense and closed. For a layer that is sufficiently thick to obtain the desired porosity, a dry weight of between 1 and 10 g/m², preferably of 2-4 g/m², of the relevant layer is required, depending on the fillers that are added to the layer, if any.

A closed layer is understood to mean that such an amount of coating has been applied that the number of openings that are usually visible on untreated paper surface under a scanning electron microscope with a magnification of about 60 times has been clearly reduced by the layer. Hence, the layer forms a virtually closed film on the paper. The size of the pores of the layer of the paper according to the invention is in the range of from 5 to 35 μ m. The number of pores per unit area in the paper according to the invention

is about 20 per mm², as against about 80 per mm² for the known types of transfer paper coated for anti-ghosting uses.

Without wishing to be limited thereby, the inventors assume that the thickness and composition of the layer
5 provide for absorption of the water, while the properties of the layer and the small number of pores per unit area provide for an effect wherein the dispersed ink particles
substantially remain on top of the layer and do not, or only to a highly limited extent, penetrate into the layer or into
10 the pores of the layer. The release layer is of such composition that the water from the aqueous dispersion of sublimable dyes is taken up relatively fast, possibly through the underlying paper or any other layers between the base
paper and the layer according to the invention, without the
15 layer closing up, i.e. no longer taking up and/or passing water.

In a preferred embodiment, the release or barrier layer is generally applied to the wire side. The wire side of the paper is typically smoother than the felt side. Hence, it
20 may be easier to obtain a sufficiently smooth and closed layer and, also, less material is required for obtaining that closed layer. However, this does not alter the fact that the application of a sufficiently thick and smooth release or barrier layer to the felt side would not have the same
25 effect. In principle, it holds that in a more closed layer, the transfer efficiency and the uniformity of the image improve.

As discussed hereinabove, an advantage of applying a barrier layer to the wire side of the paper is that the wire
30 side of the paper is smoother. As a result, the applied release or barrier layer also has a more constant thickness. A more uniform layer of a constant thickness provides for a more even absorption or transport of the water from the ink, which adds to the quality of the transfer printing. Another
35 advantage of applying the release or barrier layer to the wire side is that the irregularities that are normally

present on the paper have a less great influence. When these irregularities are of a size such that the applied layer does not cover them, or only to a reduced extent, the porosity of the layer and, accordingly, the paper increases locally. As
5 this takes place locally, the ink, during application, will in those places be taken up in the fibers of the paper. This non-uniform absorption does not only effect a reduction of the transfer efficiency, but also an irregular transfer of the sublimable dyes from the paper onto the surface, which is
10 undesirable. In a preferred embodiment of the present invention, the release or barrier layer has a thickness that does not involve this non-uniform absorption.

The paper that is used in a preferred embodiment of the invention is of a composition such that during the
15 application of the release or barrier layer and the printing with the aqueous ink, the paper retains a sufficient strength and dimensional stability, so that the paper will not cockle strongly or exhibit dimensional instability otherwise, at least not during printing. The paper has a weight of from 40
20 to 120 g/m², preferably of from 50 to 100 g/m², most preferably of from 60 to 80 g/m².

In the art, a paper is known that is used for printing images of photographic quality with an inkjet printer. This concerns paper which generally has a heavier
25 quality (up to about 250 g/m²) and, under normal conditions, can contain prints of photo quality. This paper is subject to extremely high requirements with regard to dimensional stability. Such paper must stand a loading degree of up to 300%, i.e. three colors are printed one over the other with a
30 maximum color density/intensity. This paper is also known as photo-inkjet paper. When such photo-inkjet paper is provided with a release or barrier layer according to the invention, a high loading degree proves to be possible, while the dimensional stability of the paper is retained. This, too,
35 does not involve any flowing of the sublimable dyes, while the transfer efficiency remains high.

Thus, in one embodiment, the invention also relates to a paper suitable for printing with an inkjet printer and built up from a single or multiple coated base, and which comprises a (top) layer according to the invention,
5 preferably a carboxymethylcellulose layer.

In a further embodiment, the paper according to the invention is such that during printing of the paper by means of an inkjet printer with an aqueous ink containing a dispersion of sublimable dyes, substantially no flowing of
10 the ink occurs.

In a method of manufacturing a transfer paper for inkjet printing, a release or barrier layer is applied to the base paper, preferably to the wire side thereof, while an excess of an aqueous solution of about 10-25 wt.% of
15 carboxymethylcellulose as a viscous gel is applied first, by means of a coating process, and subsequently wiped with a wiping knife (blade knife) and dried in a usual manner.

When wiping techniques (such as a roller knife or wiping knife) are not sufficient for obtaining a sufficiently smooth and closed layer, it is possible to subject the paper with the layer already applied thereto to an additional treatment. In this additional treatment, an additional layer is applied to the paper in small dots by means of, for instance, rotary screen printing. These dots subsequently run
20 one into another to form a film. In this manner, wiping stripes that may be caused during the application process with a wiping knife, can be masked and/or filled up as well.

In an elaboration of the method for printing transfer paper, an aqueous dispersion of sublimable dyes is applied to
30 the paper by means of an inkjet printer, with the ink hardly flowing, if at all, after having been applied. This means that no strong mixing of the pixels occurs and an image is obtained that has a proper acutance and a proper color uniformity.

35 In an embodiment of the invention, a transfer paper is obtained which after printing with an inkjet printer on

the coated layer exhibits a considerable improvement of the transfer efficiency. On average, the paper with a layer according to the invention exhibits a significantly higher transfer efficiency of more than 80%, compared with

5 conventional transfer paper printed by rotary screen printing, showing a transfer efficiency of, on average, 65%.

The method can also be used for printing with an inkjet printer a support material other than paper, such as a plastic film suitable therefor, which material is provided

10 with a release or barrier layer according to the invention, the inkjet printer applying an aqueous dispersion of sublimable dyes to the material, which dyes are transferred to a surface by transfer printing.

The surface onto which the image is eventually

15 transferred may be, for instance, stone, wood, metal or another material, provided with a layer such as, for instance, a polyester layer. A condition for a suitable support material and a surface to be printed and the layer is that they be resistant to the temperatures that are common

20 for transfer printing and retain their shape and dimension. For a sublimable ink, a transfer temperature ranging between about 170-210°C applies, depending on the surface and the composition of the ink. This means that when the materials from which the support material and the surface are composed

25 are film materials or other plastics, the processing temperature of these materials will have to be above the transfer temperature.

In the above embodiments, base materials other than conventional transfer paper are used for inkjet printing,

30 such as an inkjet paper of photo quality, consisting of a single or multiple coated base or a film. These materials already have a low to very low porosity by themselves. To provide that the definition of the layer according to the invention also relates to this, the following is started

35 from.

Of another base material, such as inkjet paper of photo quality, to which a layer according to the invention has been applied, the transfer efficiency is determined. This transfer efficiency is compared with a transfer efficiency
5 obtained with a base paper as described hereinabove, which is provided with a CMC layer according to the invention. When these transfer efficiencies correspond, it is assumed that the porosities of the two layers correspond as well.

In the appended Figures, the effect of the release or
10 barrier layer is visible. All microscopic recordings have been taken with a scanning electron microscope with a magnification of 60 times:

Fig. 1: Uncoated transfer paper, viewed on the wire
side.

15 **Fig. 2:** transfer paper coated on the felt side (anti-ghosting paper).

Fig. 3: transfer paper for inkjet printing, coated on the felt side.

The invention will now be specified on the basis of a number of examples.

Examples:

		Paper type 1		Paper type 2		
Weight	g/m ²	70	64	90	70	64
Roughness (Bn) wire side	ml/min	33	25	24	25	
Roughness (Bn) felt side	ml/min	140	200	220	220	240
Porosity without release layer	ml/min	approx. 3000	approx. 3000	950	1000	1300
Porosity with release layer	ml/min	0	1	4	5	7
Coating yield	g/m ²	approx. 2.2	approx. 2.2		approx. 1.8	
Transfer efficiency *		++	++	-	+	++
Contrast*		+++	+++	++	++	++
Uniformity*		++	++	+	+	+

5 * Visual assessment method by means of an internal panel, assessment range +++/++/+/ \pm /-/--/---.

Claims

1. A transfer paper suitable for inkjet printing, provided, at least on the side to be printed, with a release or barrier layer, wherein the layer has a porosity of at most 100 ml/min.
- 5 2. A transfer paper according to claim 1, wherein the release or barrier layer is applied to the wire side.
3. A transfer paper according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the porosity is at most 75 ml/min.
4. A transfer paper according to any one of claims 1-3,
10 wherein the porosity is from 0 to 25 ml/min.
5. A transfer paper according to any one of claims 1-4, wherein the release or barrier layer is based on polyvinyl alcohol, carboxymethylcellulose, alginate, gelatin or mixtures thereof.
- 15 6. A transfer paper according to claim 5, wherein the release or barrier layer is based on carboxymethylcellulose.
7. A transfer paper according to any one of claims 1-6, wherein the release or barrier layer can contain up to 15% of a filler.
- 20 8. A transfer paper according to claim 7, wherein the filler is kaolin or talcum.
9. A transfer paper according to any one of claims 1-8, wherein a non-transferable dye is added to the release or barrier layer or to the paper.
- 25 10. A transfer paper according to any one of claims 1-9, wherein during the printing of the paper by means of an inkjet printer with an aqueous ink that contains a dispersion of sublimable dyes, substantially no flowing of the ink occurs.
- 30 11. A transfer paper according to any one of claims 1-10, wherein the paper is of photo quality.
12. A transfer paper according to claim 11, wherein the paper has a single or multiple coated base.

13. A method for manufacturing transfer paper for inkjet printing according to any one of claims 1-12, wherein to the side to be printed, a release or barrier layer is applied by means of a coating process in which an excess of the barrier material is applied first and subsequently wiped with a
5 wiping knife (blade knife) or roller knife, with the layer obtaining a porosity of at most 100 ml/min.
14. A method according to claim 13, wherein the layer is based on polyvinyl alcohol, carboxymethylcellulose, alginate
10 and gelatin or mixtures thereof, with optional fillers.
15. A method according to claim 13 or 14, wherein the layer is based on carboxymethylcellulose.
16. A method for printing transfer paper according to any one of claims 1-12, wherein during the printing of the paper
15 by means of an inkjet printer with an aqueous dispersion of a sublimable ink, substantially no flowing and/or non-uniform absorption of the ink occurs.
17. Use of transfer paper according to any one of claims 1-12 for printing with an inkjet printer.
- 20 18. A method for printing a surface, wherein with an inkjet printer a pattern is provided on a support material other than paper, having a release or barrier layer of a porosity of at most 100 ml/min and wherein the pattern is subsequently provided on the surface by means of
25 transferring.

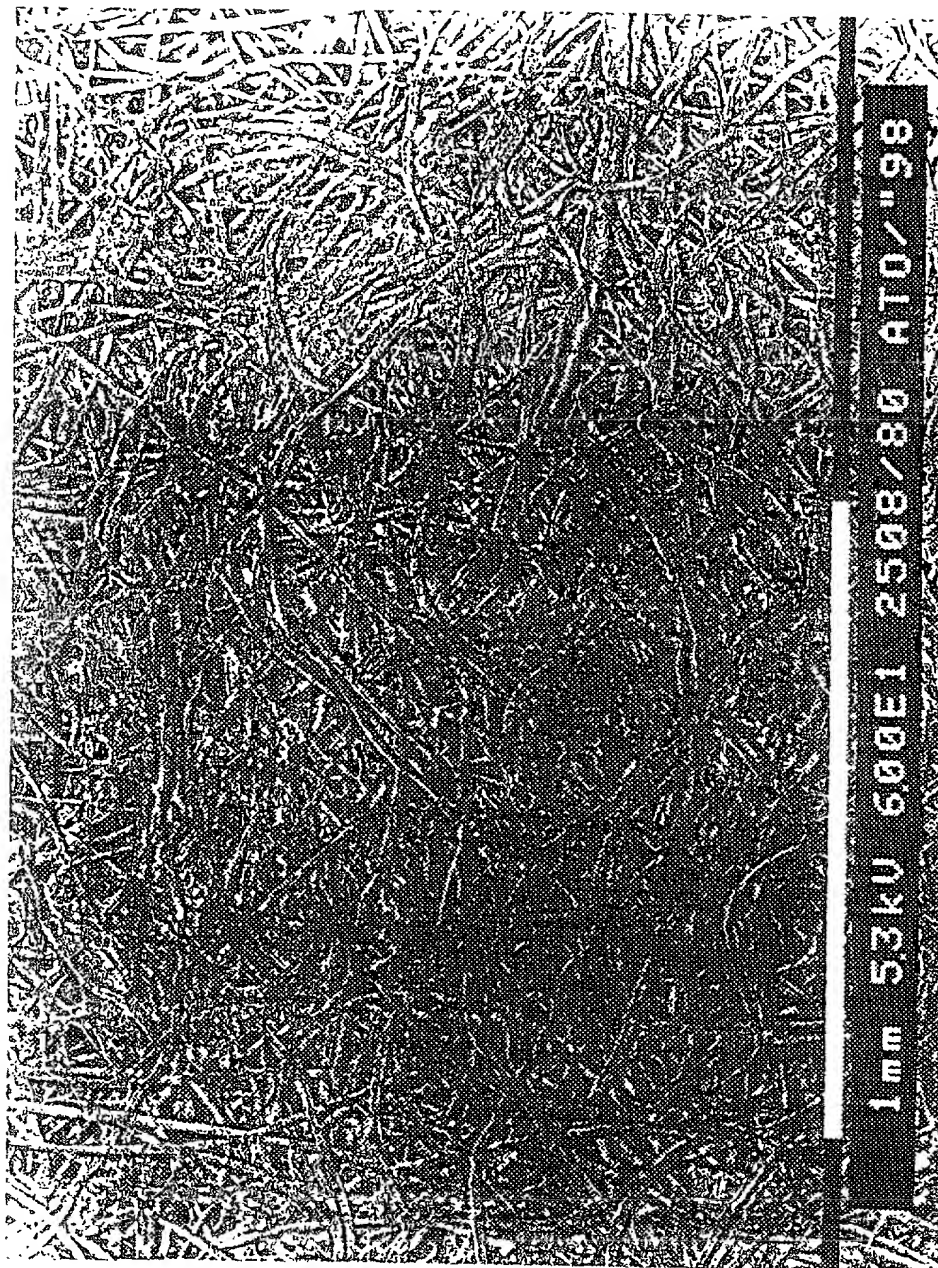


Figure 1

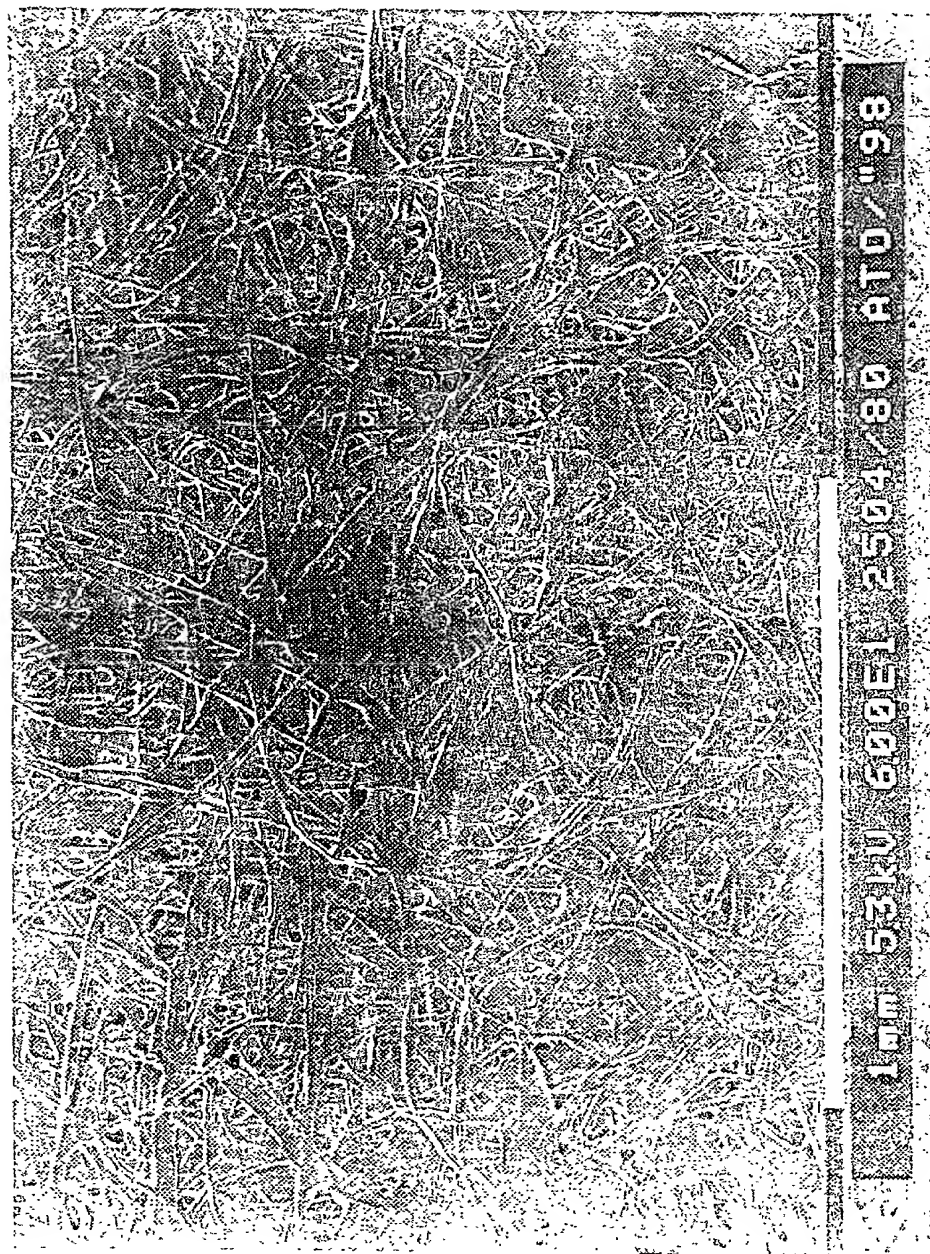


Figure 2

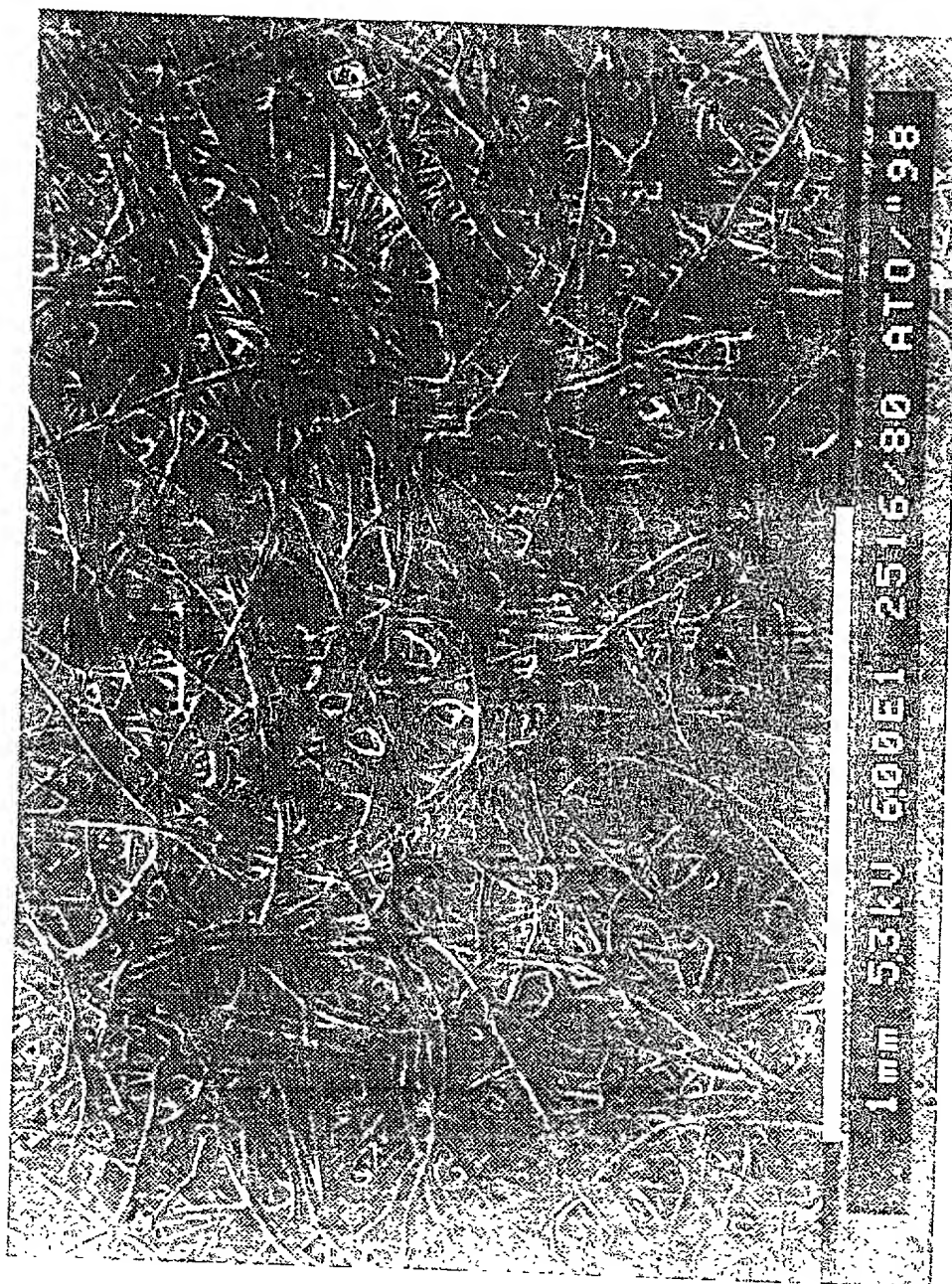


Figure 3

Declaration and Power of Attorney Patent Application (Design or Utility)

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name,

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled: "Transfer Paper for Ink-jet Printing".

the specification of which

☐ is attached hereto
is filed date was filed on March 5, 2001 as application serial no. 09/744,637 and or
is 20 Jan. 2001 PCT International Application number PCT/NL99/00485 and was amended on
 (if applicable).

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office all information know to me to be material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R.§1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under 35 U.S.C.§119(a)-(d) or 35 U.S.C.§365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or 35 U.S.C.§365(a) of any PCT International application which designated at least one country other than the United States, listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate of PCT International application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed.

Prior Foreign Application(s)		
Number 1009766	Country NL ✓	Day/Month/Year Filed 29 July 1998 ✓
Number	Country	Day/Month/Year Filed
Number	Country	Day/Month/Year Filed

Express Mail Number

ELL34464888US

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. §119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below:

Prior Provisional Application(s)	
Serial Number	Day/Month/Year Filing Date
Serial Number	Day/Month/Year Filing Date
Serial Number	Day/Month/Year Filing Date

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. §120 of any United States application(s), or under 35 U.S.C. §365(c) of any PCT International application designating the United States, listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States or PCT International application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. §112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office all information known to me to be material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT International filing date of this application:

Prior U.S. or International Application(s)		
Serial Number	Day/Month/Year Filed	Status (patented, pending, abandoned)
Serial Number	Day/Month/Year Filed	Status (patented, pending, abandoned)
Serial Number	Day/Month/Year Filed	Status (patented, pending, abandoned)

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements are made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under 18 U.S.C. §1001 and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Power of Attorney

As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or agent(s) to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith.

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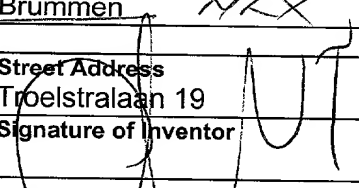
I hereby authorize them or others whom they may appoint to act and rely on instructions from and communicate directly with the person/organization who/which first sends this case to them and by whom/which I hereby declare that I have consented after full disclosure to be represented unless/until I instructed otherwise.

Please direct all correspondence in this case to at the address indicated below:

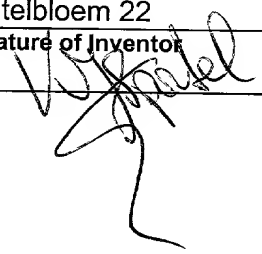
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